

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 111947Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1187

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: BERGERON ON ETUC

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING 10 JULY WITH UK, FRG AND  
U.S. LABOR COUNSELORS ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY  
GENERAL, REITERATED HIS DISILLUSION WITH ETUC AND HIS  
PESSIMISM ABOUT ETUC EVER BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE  
ORGANIZATION.

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2. HE DESCRIBED THE 4 JULY ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING SIMPLY AS "NO EVENT" BECAUSE, AS HE SAID, THE  
DISCUSSIONS WERE RAMBLING, THE DIVISIONS IRRECONCILABLE  
AND THE INABILITY TO COME UP WITH A PROGRAM ONLY TOO

PATENT. HE DEPLORED THE LACK OF ANY COMMON DENOMINATOR AMONG THE ETUC MEMBERS AND THE FAILURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 4 JULY MEETING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS PROBLEM AND ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ETUC CHARTER.

3. WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT THE DIVISION BETWEEN MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS OF THE COMMON MARKET WAS THE MOST APPARENT AND MORE SIGNIFICANT, BERGERON MAINTAINED THAT THE TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE ETUC MEMBERS TO BEHAVE INDIVIDUALISTICALLY CREATED ADDITIONAL SHIFTING DIVISIONS WITHIN ETUC WHICH HAMPER ANY EFFORT TO PRODUCT A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM.

4. BERGERON ADDED THAT DGB PRESIDENT VETTER WAS JUST AS DISAPPOINTED ABOUT THE 4 JULY MEETING AS HE WAS AND GENERALLY SHARES BERGERON'S APPREHENSION ABOUT ETUC FUTURE.

5. ASKED ABOUT RASSCHAERT'S RESIGNATION BERGERON SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF HIS REPLACEMENT WAS NOT DISCUSSED ON 4 JULY, ADDING THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE ONLY PERSONNEL CHANGE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN ETUC. HE WAS UNABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.

6. BERGERON VOLUNTEERED THAT ROGER LOUET, FORMERLY FO SECRETARY AND NOW DIRECTOR OF THE EC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, TOLD HIM RECENTLY THAT ETUC IS NOT HELD IN GREAT ESTEEM AMONG THE EC INSTITUTIONS AND AS A RESULT IS NOT LOOKED UPON AS A FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES.

7. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT BERGERON NEVER THOUGHT IT REALISTIC TO TRY TO EXPAND ETUC BEYOND THE COMMON MARKET MEMBER COUNTRIES. HE HAS FELT THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES IN THE EC INSTITUTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE PROVERBIAL "COMMON DENOMINATOR" AS TO GIVE ETUC MEMBERS COMMON OUTLOOK AND OBJECTIVES. EXPERIENCE SINCE THE FORMATION OF ETUC SEEMS TO JUSTIFY IN RETROSPECT BERGERON'S MISGIVINGS.

8. HOWEVER, HIS REPORT ON THE 4 JULY MEETING WAS NOT CAST IN ANY "I TOLD YOU SO" UNDERTONES BECAUSE BERGERON AND FO BEING CONVINCED EUROPEANISTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO GIVE ETUC A CHANCE. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO WHILE REMAINING LUCID IN ASSESSING ETUC PROGRESS.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AMENDMENTS, CONCORDE, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** EAIR, FR, UK, (YATES, SIDNEY R)  
**To:** n/a  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006